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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 34th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 13 September 1976, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. JOEWONO (Indonesia)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.25 a.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MAO TSE-TUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

1. The CHAIRMAN expressed condolences to the Chinese delegation on the death of Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China.

2. Speaking as representative of Indonesia, he said that, in a message addressed to the Chinese Prime Minister, the Prime Minister of Indonesia had described Mao Tse-tung as a leader of great historic stature and had noted that his departure would be felt as a great loss. He asked the Chinese delegation to convey his Government's sympathy to the bereaved family and to the Government and people of China.

3. Mr. VANDERGERT (Sri Lanka) associated his delegation with the Chairman's expressions of sympathy on the death of Mao Tse-tung. The world would be poorer for the passing of such an illustrious world leader and he joined in paying a tribute to a heroic son of China, Asia and the world.

4. On the proposal of the Chairman, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China.

5. Mr. SHU Yi-min (China) thanked the Chairman, the representative of Sri Lanka and the other members of the Committee for their expressions of profound sympathy on the death of Mao Tse-tung and said that he would convey their heartfelt sentiments to the Government and people of China.

CONVENING OF A CONFERENCE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN (continued)

6. The CHAIRMAN read out the text of a letter from the Secretary-General transmitting to the Committee a letter dated 9 September from the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, together with a statement by the latter expressing the Special Committee's concern over the militarization and naval expansion of South Africa, which was taking place with the connivance and collaboration of some Western States and Israel and posed a serious threat to independent African States and to peace in the Indian Ocean Zone. The statement also referred to the increase in South Africa's military budget and to the régime's acts of aggression against Angola and Zambia, and drew attention to recent agreements by France and Israel to supply South Africa with naval equipment, categorically rejecting the contention that the equipment involved was defensive and did not pose a threat to the South African people or to independent African States. The statement concluded by noting the positions on South Africa's military and naval activities adopted recently at the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, held in Mauritius and at the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Colombo, Sri Lanka.

7. He suggested that the Committee might send a reply to the Secretary-General, thanking him for his communication and taking note of it and of the statement by the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid.

8. Mr. MULYE (India) said that, even if members had no comments to make at the current stage regarding the communication transmitted by the Secretary-General, the Committee might wish to revert to the matter at a subsequent meeting.

9. Mr. VANDERGERT (Sri Lanka) suggested that the Committee should leave the matter pending, as suggested by the representative of India; if by the end of the current series of meetings it had no specific comments to make, it could send a reply to the Secretary-General along the lines suggested by the Chairman.

10. It was so decided.

11. The CHAIRMAN recalled the suggestion put forward by the representative of Sri Lanka at the preceding meeting that the Committee should devise a clear-cut programme of action linked to a specific time-frame and that it should give priority attention to the definition of littoral and hinterland States. He inquired whether the representative of Sri Lanka had any further suggestions or comments to make in that connexion.

12. Mr. VANDERGERT (Sri Lanka) said that at the current stage his delegation was interested in hearing the views of other members and was prepared to consider any proposals delegations might wish to make. It fully realized that it might not be practicable to finalize a programme of action at the current series of meetings; the Committee should, however, at least suggest in its report to the General Assembly general guidelines regarding ways of approaching the task at the next series of meetings. That in itself would represent a significant advance in the Committee's work.

13. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, if no other members wished to speak, the Committee might postpone its afternoon meeting and use the time thus gained to prepare suggestions regarding the formulation of a programme of action.

14. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.